SWINBURNES ODE.

From the London Saturday Review. "There was a little quiver fellow and a would manage you his piece thus; and 'a would about and about, and come you in, and come you in; 'rah, tab, tah' would 'a say; 'bounce' would 'a say; and away again would 'a go, and again would 'a come; I shall never see such a fellow." Without in any way intending to be disrespectful to Mr. Swinburne, we must admit that in his political writings he irresistibly reminds us of Justice Shallow's "little quiver fellow." He chooses for himself indeed a nobler scene than "Arthur's show at Mile-end Green." He does not "come you in, come you in" till the red flag is likely to be unfurled in some capital of Europe, but when he does, his actions and his words are much the same. "'Rab, tah, tah' would he say, 'bounce' would he say," would, we venture to suggest, be a more appropriate motto to his "Ode on the Proclamation of the French Republic" than the line he gives us from Æschylus. As we have not the least doubt that Mr. Swinburne is engaged in writing an ode in anticipation of the proclamation of the Roman republic, we beg to inform him that he is quite at liberty to appropriate to himself this motto if he pleases. Mr. Swinburne is indeed such a "quiver fellow" that he can compose an ode almost as fast as the people of Paris can esta-blish a republic. We must have little doubt that the duration of the one will be almost as long as that of the other. Six days after the Republic was proclaimed this ode was published. It may perhaps be the case that both poet and publisher were anxious to avoid an awkward contingency, and were fearful lest the Republic should have collapsed before the ode had been printed. We shall not do Mr. Swinburne the injustice to suppose that he kept this ode by him ready for anything that might turn up, whether in France or Italy. We have no doubt that, as he has a complete command over words and as complete an indifference to sense, he can strike off some three hundred lines as easily as Hotspur killed you "some six or seven dozen of Scots at a breakfast." We must do him the justice to admit that his nonsense is at all events melodious nonsense. We have often wished, however, that he could have been a second Mendelssohn, and could have composed his songs without words. We should never, that case, have been stopped in our enjoyment of his melody by awkward reflections about his meaning. We consider, indeed, that nature intended Mr. Swinburne much more for a musician than a poet. A man may take liberties with his fiddlestick that he cannot take with his pen, and so long as he pleases the ear, need not consider the understanding. As it is, we can never read Mr. Swinburne for long together without getting thoroughly weary of him. His perfect rhythm becomes at last tiresome, and we do not find any relief in the worse than indecency of which he is too often guilty. As we read him we are reminded of one of Boswell's stories:-"A gentleman who introduced his brother to Dr. Johnson was earnest to recommend him to the Doctor's notice, which he did by saying, 'When we have sat together some time, you'll find my brother very entertaining.'
Sir (said Johnson), I can wait.'
We read through one of Mr. Swinburne's poems, and hope that they will in time grow entertaining and, we may add, intelligible, but, unlike Johnson, we do not find that we can wait. No doubt Mr. Swinburne thas written not a little that is very beautiful. But even his finest poems have passages which are conspicuous by a remarkable absence of anything like sense. In reading his poems we think we can often notice that the

always plead the justification of the rhyme for the nonsense which he has written. Days terrible with love Ked-shod with flames thereof, is not only rant, but it is rant and a bad rhyme into the bargain. By the way, we wonder, if Mr. Swinburne were required to write a poem, and were at the same time ferbidden to introduce red and flames, fire and blood, kisses and tears, whether he would succeed. We all know that the ordinary hymn is founded on the axiom that king rhymes with sing, and on the postulates that word rhymes with Lord and love with move. We wonder which would fare the worse, if robbed of their favorite words, Mr. Swinburne or the hymn-writers. We doubt, in either case, whether there would be many complete stanzas left. We wish Mr. Swinburne could be tempted to follow in Gainsborough's steps for once, and show that he is capable, if not a "Blue Boy," at all events of a composition that is not red. We are tired of "fangs of fire," "fire of long pain," "blood of thought," "blood-blackening faces," "bloodiest hour," "bloody tears."
We think we have read all this before, more than once, too, and we must remonstrate with him on treating us as the "mad blind morrow" treats France, and whelming our head, as well as hers, "with sanguine waves."

particular form his folly takes is fixed rather

by an apt rhyme than by anything else. Rhyme and reason with him are almost

synoymous, but if the choice lies between

the two he prefers the rhyme. Then, too,

his mind seems so little capable of accuracy

that he makes the most curious contradic-

tions within the space of a very few lines.

In the well-known chorus in the Atalanta

there a remarkable instance of this.

We refer, of course, to the chorus that tells

of the making of man. In the first line

we are told that it was "before the begin-

ning of years," but in the sixteenth line

we read, to our surprise, that one of the in-

gredients of which man was formed "was a

measure of sliding sand from under the feet

of the years." Both lines are very pretty in

themselves, and each contains an unexcep-

tionable rhyme for tears. Nevertheless it

would have been more satisfactory if these

years had actually been in existence before

the sand was taken from beneath their feet.

In the ode before us Mr. Swinburne cannot

And yet in the midst of this extravagance there are splendid lines, lines which no other poet living, except, perhaps, Mr. Browning, could have written. What simplicity and beauty and force of language there are in such a passage as this:-

Better an end of all men's races. Better the world's whole work were done, And life wiped out of all our traces, And there were left to time not one, Tean such as these that fill thy graves should sow in slaves the seed of slaves.

The beauty of this passage is, however, sadly marred by the two repulsive lines that pre-

What though thy thousands at thy knees Lie thick as grave-worms feed on these. We cannot as we read but exclaim with Hamlet, "How abhorred my imagination is! my gorge rises at it." The dead too, Mr. Swin-burne should remember, have their claims to decent respect, and though, as we read in the newspapers, the great floods have washed open their graves at Metz, that is no reason why Mr. Swinburne shall do the same with his torrent of words. Here again is a fine

Hope, with fresh heavens to track,
Looks for a breath's space back,
where the divine years reach hands to this their
brother;

And souls of men whose death
Was light to her and breath
Send word of love yet living to the living mother. It is a pity that Mr. Swinburne should have ushered in such lines with the following doggerel, which is about worthy of the grave-

stone poet among the Fenians: Day to day, man to man Pights love republican. He had a few pages before given us:-Light of the light of man, Reborn republican,

and we were not so well pleased with the jin-

gle as to wish to have it repeated. Though there are not a few other passages besides the two we have quoted above where Mr. Swinburne shows that he can write with great beauty and great vigor, we cannot but look upon the whole composition as a flood of "effluent" words (to quote his own language), "effused and shed" on the public. If Mr. Swinburne has been at the seat of war-filling, for instance, the part of special correspondent to the Telegraph during Mr. Sala's unfortunate arrest-we can excuse him a great deal. Many a man's brain has been turned

cuse as this for the following lines:-All the lights of the sweet heaven that sing together, All the years of the green earth that bare man

with less excitement before now. We should

be glad to find that he has had some such ex-

Rays and lightnings of the flerce or tender weather, Heights and lowlands, wastes and headlands of the sea, Dawns and sunsets, hours that hold the world in Be our witnesses and seals of things to be.

Lo, the mother, the Republic universal, Hands that hold time fast, hands feeding men Lips that sing the song of the earth, that make re-

hearsal Of all seasons and the sway of day with night; Eyes that see as from a mountain the dispersa The huge ruin of things evil, and the flight; Large exuiting limbs and bosom godlike moulded Where the man-child hangs, and womb wherein

he lay, Very life that could it die would leave the soul Face whereat all fears and forces flee away, Breath that moves the world as winds a flower-bell

Feet that, trampling the gross darkness, beat out

In the first place, we cannot but think that Mr. Swinburne, though doubtlessly quite unconsciously, borrows one, if not two, of his rhymes from Mr. Browning. The first and fifth lines remind us somewhat too strongly of the beginning of "The Grammarian's Funeral," where "singing together" ends the second line and "each in its tether," the fourth. If Mr. Swinburne had contented himself with merely borrowing from Mr. Browning, we should not have raised much objection. His meaning would have been no doubt rather obscure, but with patient study might have been found out. The more, however, we study the lines we have quoted, the less can we guess what they mean. Is the time that is held fast by the hands of the universal Republic, the same as the hours that hold the world in tether? If so, we can only suppose that it is a somewhat involved way of saying that the universal Republic holds the world in tether; for if the Republic's hands holds the hours fast, and the hours hold the world, it would seem to follow that the Republic holds the world.

But, then, why should these hours that are held fast be so solemnly invoked to be witnesses and seals that they are held fast? And what about the hands feeding men with might? It would seem to be the case that the Republic universal caught the hours holding the world of men in tether, and naturally coming to the rescue arrested the hours with one hand, and with the other fed the poor exhausted world. Justice Shallow's "little quiver fellow" could not beat this, and we would back up Mr. Swinburne to say "bounce" against him or any one else in the world. Happily for France, English words cannot flood her quite so easily as Prussian soldiers. Otherwise, in the straits to which the French are reduced, we should expect to see Mr. Swinburne's ode received with the same cries that interrupted the States-General in 7789-'Du pain; pas tant de longs discours

THE POLISH QUESTION .- The Russian press, which in its alarm at the increasing power of Germany has been looking about for allies, now goes so far as to recommend the Government even to make concessions to the Poles in order to obtain their support for Russia against her formidable neighbor and rival. The most remarkable of the articles on this subject is one in the Exchange Gazette. of St. Petersburg, discussing at great length the advantage that would accrue to Russia from such a policy. The Gazette says that Russia's turn will come next now that Austria and France have been ceaten, and that she will have to fight against even greater numbers than those two powers. "Austria was opposed to 17,000,000 Prussians; France to 40,000,000 confederated Germans; while Russia, by the time war again breaks out, will be opposed to a united Germany of from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000." The real cause of the misfortunes of Austria and France, proceeds the Gazette, is the want of allies abroad and the presence of hostile elements at home. Russia, too, will have no allies among the European States; for France will be exhausted: Italy, Sweden, and Denmark of little use, Austria and Turkey hostile, and England neutral. But she would have powerful allies in the Siavonic races if they were properly organized. At present, however, they are spin up among so many different States that they are powerless out of their own territory. "If Russia were to go to Constantinople or Vienna, their assistance would enable her to attain her object almost without firing a shot; but in a war with Prussia she would find no other opponent of the victors of Sadowa and Sedan except, perhaps, the Poles of Posen, whose assistance, however, would be as doubtful as it is useless." The great object of Russian policy, thinks the Gazette, should therefore be "to liberate the slavonic world," By doing this she would not only provide herself with strong and devoted allies, but remove from her own territory her most formidable danger-the Polish question. "It is certain that Poland could do a great deal of harm to Russia if she were involved in a war. * * * Unless Russia will make herself the leader of Slavonic unity, she must for ages carry on a silent or open struggle with the Poles; unless she will solve the Polish question, her taking up the Slavonic cause will plunge her into a war with Germany under disadvantageous circumstances. Poland is really the key of the situation." The Gazette next proceeds to show that Bismarck would probably make war on Russia ostensibly for the sake of the Poles, as he did on Denmark for the Holsteiners, on Austria for the Italians and Hungarians, and on France for the opponents of Napoleon. "We may be sure that this Bayard of the nineteenth century, if he should attack Russia, will do so in order to protect the Protestant religion and the German nationality in the Baltic provinces and Finland, and at the same time to assist the oppressed Poles, * * and wipe out the great crime of the age. * * * There will arise a Prussian party in Poland after Sedan, as there did an Austrian one after Sadowa. " " To this treacherous intrigue Russia can only oppose the Siavonic nationality and the solution of the Polish question on the basis of Slavonic unity."

THEREVENGE OF GREMANY .- In view of what has been said about the bad treatment of the French prisoners by the Prussians, the following extract from Carlyle's "Life of Frederick the Great" is of interest as showing what Germany's avenging:-Branderode, a village two leagues from this (Freiburg), is so rulaed out that nobody almost has anything left. Chief Inspector Baron von Rose's Schloss there, with its splendid appointments, they (the French) rulined utterly; took all money, victuals, valuables, furniture, cl. thes, linen, and beds; all they could carry; what could not be carried away they cut, hewed, and smashed to pieces; broke the wine casks, and even tore up the documents and

letters they found lying in the place. Branderode Dorf was twice set fire to by them, and was at last with Zeuchfeld, which is an Amtsdorf—after both had been plundered—reduced to ashes. Tae had been plundered—reduced to ashes. The churches of Branderode and Zeuchfeld, with several other churches, were plundered, the altars broken, the altar-cloths and other vestures cut to pieces, and the sacred vessels and cups carried away. ** ** It is one of their smallest doings pieces, and the sacred vessels and cups carried away. * * * It is one of their smallest doings that they robbed a Saxon clergyman three times over on the public highway, shot at him, tied him to a horse's tail, and dragged him along with them, so that he is now lying ill in danger of his life. On the whole, it is our beloved pastors, clergymen most of all, that have been plundered of everything they had. * * * In Weischutz a French colonel who wanted to ride out upon the works made the there Pastor, Magister Schren, stoop down has way of horse block, and mounted into the saddle to way of horse block, and mounted luto the saddle from his back. * * Churches are all smashed; obscene songs were sung, in form of litany, from the julpits and altars; what was done with the communion vessels when they were not worth stealcommunion vessels when they were not worth stealing," "is hideous to the religious sense, and shall not be mentioned in human speech." These last are Carlyle's own words. "But," it may be said, "the French are changed since 1757, and would have acted with scrupulous humanity and courtesy had they been victorious in this war and marched triumphantly loto Germany." It may be so—at any rate they burned a m -n alive the other day for supposed sympathy with Prussla. Such recollections as this passage recalls have

never died out in Germany; they have kept warm to this day in a hundred villages and towns. The Germans should be careful to leave no such memories in France, knowing well their deep and lasting

GETTING USED TO IT .- It is interesting to mark the progress of civilization from year to year. On the 19th of September, last year, all Europe quivered with horror at the slaughter of the Kinck family by Tropmann. The violent death of seven persons shocked the civilized world. How vast has been our improvement in this short period! what tone have our nerves acquired! We read of the slaughter of 7000 persons with far more calmness than we heard of the slaughter of seven. The Kinck ramily were only sacrified to the exigencies of an individual; the thousands whose corpses are lying beneath the battle-fields in Alsace and Lorraine have been sacrificed to the necessities of nations; and herein lies the difference. Yet we should never forgot that the victims in each case are individuals; every wounded man lying now in a hospital suffers more than any of the Kincks. Gamblers tell us that it is not so much the money they lose at the table that ruins them as the impossibility they find of economizing shillings in the ordinary transactions of life, when they have accustomed themselves to stake hundreds of pounds on one throw of the dice; and so it is with human lives. We lose all sense of their value in the lavish waste of war.

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Sunday Train No. 1 leaves Philadelphia at 8:40
A. M.; arrives at Paoli at 9:40 A. M. Sunday

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Philadelphia Express . 6:30 A. M.
Erie Mail . 6:30 A. M.
Paoli Accommodat'n, 5:26 A. M. & 3:30 & 6:40 P. M.
Parkesburg Train . 9:00 A. M.
Fast Line and Buffalo Express . 9:35 A. M.
Lancaster Train . 11:55 A. M.
Erie Express . 6:40 P. M.
Lock Haven and Elmira Express . 9:40 P. M.
Pacific Express . 9:40 P. M.
Pacific Express . 9:40 P. M.
Harrisburg Accommodation . 9:40 P. M.
For jurther information apply to

Lancaster Train

Lancaster Train

Erie Express

. 6-40 P. M.
Lock Haven and Elmira Express

. 9-40 P. M.
Pacific Express

Harrisburg Accommodation

For jurther information apply to

JOHN F. VANLEER, Jr., Ticket Agent.

No. 901 CHESNUT Street.

FRANCIS FUNK, Ticket Agent.

No. 116 MARKET Street.

SAMUEL H. WALLACE,

Ticket Agent at the Depot.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will not assume any risk for Baggage, except for Wearing Apparel, and limit their responsibility to One Hundred Dollars in value. All Baggage exceeding that amount in value will be at the risk of the owner, unless taken by special contract.

owner, unless taken by special contract.
A. J. CASSATT.
4 29 General Superintendent, Altoena, Pa. WEST CHESTER AND PHILADELPHIA RAIL W ROAD COMPANY.
On and after MONDAY, April 4, 1870, trains will leave from the Depot, THIRTY-FIRST and CHES-

leave from the Depot, THIRTY-FIRST and CHESNUT, as follows:—
FROM PHILADELPHIA.
6-45 A.M., for B. C. Junction, stops at all stations.
7-15 A.M., for West Chester, stops at all stations west of Media (except Greenwood), connecting at B. C. Junction for Oxford, Kennett, Port Deposit, and stations on the P. and B. C. R. R.
9-40 A. M. for West Chester stops at all stations.
11-50 A. M. for B. C. Junction stops at all stations.
2-30 P. M. for West chester stops at all stations.
4-15 P. M. for B. C. Junction stops at all stations.
4-15 P. M. for West Chester stops at all stations west of Media (except Greenwood), connecting at B. C. Junction for Oxford, Kennett, Port Deposit, and all stations on the P. & B. C. R. R.
5-30 P. M. for B. C. Junction. This train commences running on and after June 1, 1870, stopping at all stations.

to P. M. for West Chester stops at all stations. 6 to P. M. for West Chester stops at all stations.
11 30 P. M. for West Chester stops at all stations.
FOR PHILADELPHIA.
5 25 A. M. from B. C. Junction stops at all stations.
6 30 A. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
7 40 A. M. from West Chester stops at all stations between W. C. and Media (except Greenwood), connecting at B. C. Junction for Oxford, Kennett, Port Deposit, and all stations on the P. & B. C. R. R.

Port Deposit, and all stations en the P. & B. C.
R. R.
S-15 A. M. from B. C. Junction stops at all stations.
10-00 A. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
10-6 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from West Chester stops at all stations.
155 P. M. from B. C. Junction with P. & B. C. R. R.
155 P. M. from B. C. Junction. This train commences running on and after June 1st, 1870, stopping at all stations.
150 A. M. for West Chester stops at all stations.
150 P. M. for West Chester stops at all stations.
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